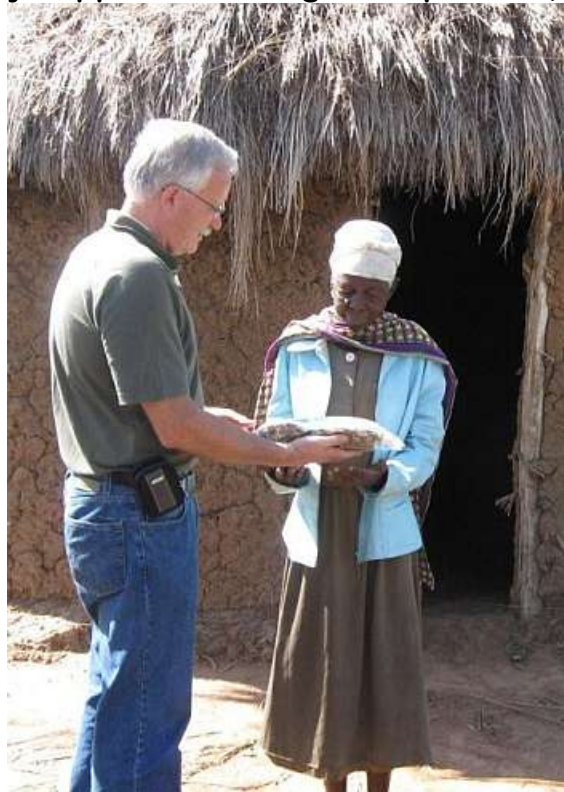


North Okanagan Valley Gleaners Society Newsletter No. 5 (October 2009)

Please note that we will be hosting an Open House on Sat. Oct 31, 2009 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Sun. Nov. 1, 2009, from 1 – 6 p.m. Since our approval by the Agricultural Land Commission in April, 2009, it seems much has happened. We are now working through the process with our North Okanagan Regional District in completing a rezoning from Agricultural to Industrial Agricultural which is required for a Gleaners operation. NORD has been completely supportive through this process,

but it is time consuming and requires much paperwork. We are seeing a light at the end of the tunnel with regard to this and are hopeful that all approvals will be through by the end of this year or early next. In the meantime, and over the summer we have had numerous cleaning sessions of the building, which had sat unused for a few years, and we thank the many volunteers that put in hours of work in that regard. It seems to us that God is providing each step of the way in order for us to get up and running. We have had a 5 ton truck donated to us from the Oliver Gleaners, a vegetable dicer on loan to us from the Fraser Valley Gleaners (this is a key piece of equipment that would cost in the range of \$25,000); 12 apple corers designed and made for our use at a cost of about \$500 donated to us.



We've had an Electrical Engineer donate his time to get one of our dehydrators up and running. This man was given a lead on replacement parts for the dehydrators that were valued at about \$15,000 that he purchased for \$500 and then donated to us. A wastewater management Engineer is donating his time to getting the preliminary septic done. We've been contacted by a company that can provide us the barrels to store the dried product in, with the sealed tops in the amount of about 20 per week, no charge. A local farmer has told us that when we are up and running he would like to plant a couple of acres of vegetables for us. We were just offered apples in an orchard that were not marketable but unfortunately we aren't ready to use them yet, so this is an example of what goes to waste. We did obtain a couple of bins of them and we hope to do a test run of the dehydrators soon, but this is just one example of the food that goes to waste in this valley. There are so

many more items of generosity that I could list and it has been exciting to see this all come together little by little. The owners of the property have been letting us use the property rent free. We have been for the last few months, collecting and storing medical equipment in the way of hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, cribs, linens and gowns, and much more for donation to third world countries. Glen Coxson, on our board of directors has very diligently been collecting and sorting and cataloguing all the equipment, and to date we have been able to provide some of the items on containers going to Nicaragua, and to Burundi, Africa. Around Nov. 1 a 40 foot container will be arriving to load up that will be heading to a hospital in Liberia, Africa. It is a blessing to know that this equipment can be put to good use in needy countries. We recently held a membership meeting where it was voted in favour of making the owner of the property an offer to purchase. We made an offer at this time because we had an anonymous donor pledge up to \$100,000 of matching funds donated towards the purchase of the property. The owner has turned it down in favour of a higher price which he feels is market value. As a board, we are currently considering our options, but in the meantime the owner has expressed his support for this project and has also expressed that we continue with our current rental agreement, which is free rent. Anyway, if you can, we encourage you to come out to our Open House. We have much good news to show and share with you.

Eileen Nogue on behalf of North Okanagan Valley Gleaners Society.